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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Multistakeholder Group on Vulnerable people & ICTs*<sup>1</sup>

**TaC/IFLA Open Forum calls on governments to consider guidelines on better inclusion of vulnerable groups in the Information Society**

At a time of major changes in the Internet landscape when governments, civil society and the private sector are coming together to connect the most vulnerable people<sup>2</sup>, worldwide communities have an important role to play.

TaC - Together Against Cybercrime International and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) organised an Open Forum<sup>3</sup> of the *Multistakeholder Group on Vulnerable people & ICTs* at the 2013 IGF in Bali. The Forum, which is the direct outcome of previous IGF dialogue, discussed a set of areas that could be included in guidelines for a global strategy on the better inclusion of vulnerable groups in the Information society.

Mr Fadi Chehadé, President and CEO of ICANN in his opening message to the Forum underlined that « (...) the mark of a just society is one which includes and takes care of its most vulnerable citizens. The same has to be true with the Internet; we all will be judged by how inclusive access to, and use of, the Internet is. I recognize there is much work to do by all of us. (...) ».

A message from Mr Henri Malosse, President of EESC<sup>4</sup>, the voice of the civil society in Europe supported the Open Forum discussion. Mr Malosse reminded participants that access to education could be better achieved with the help of ICTs - « (...), and through ICT we can arrive in every place of the world... we could bring education, and education is the future. (...) - said Mr Malosse». The President of the EESC also underlined the fragility of vulnerable people with regard to online abuse.

Mr Nigel Hickson, Vice-President, Stakeholder Engagement for Europe at ICANN noted that « (...) We are not going to attract marginalised groups to the Internet unless it is a single, open and secure Internet. That is something at the heart of the ICANN mission. »

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<sup>1</sup> More information at: [www.vulnerables.eu](http://www.vulnerables.eu)

<sup>2</sup> As defined by the Tunis Agenda and Geneva Declaration of Principles.

<sup>3</sup> More information at: <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/open-forums/list-of-open-fora>

<sup>4</sup> European Economic and Social Committee, [www.eesc.europa.eu](http://www.eesc.europa.eu)

Mr Stuart Hamilton, Director of Policy and Advocacy at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) said: « (...) we must not forget about the importance of public access to ICTs in the community – vulnerable and marginalised people need safe spaces like libraries where they can access computers and training. »

The *Multistakeholder Working Group on Vulnerable people & ICTs* will therefore continue its work on a set of guidelines for a global strategy on the better inclusion of vulnerable groups in the Information Society and engage with governments to provide input and support for its work.